

Congress comes to Bagram Air Base

Story and photo by Spc. Wes Landrum
Coalition Joint Task Force-180

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Five senators, led by John McCain (R) of Arizona, came to Bagram Air Base Friday to visit with soldiers from their respective states and to find out what needs to be done to win the war on terrorism here in Afghanistan.

Accompanying McCain were Kay Bailey-Hutchinson (R) of Texas, Jim Kolbe (R) of Arizona, Lindsay Graham (R) of South Carolina, John Sununu (R) of New Hampshire and Maria Cantwell (D) of Washington State.

“We wanted to talk to the troops to see how they feel,” said Hutchinson. “We try to get a feel for how things are going on the ground and what we, as members of Congress, need to do to make the quality of life better and to make sure our mission is successful.”

The senators took time to eat with the service members and answer their questions. The soldiers even took pictures with their state representatives and had autographs signed by them.

Kolbe said although Congress is focused on Iraq, they are still concerned about the troops here in Afghanistan.

“I think people are still very aware that we’re in Afghanistan,” he said.

“The American people still strongly support what we did and are proud of the military success we enjoyed here,” McCain added.



Senator John McCain (R) of Arizona, signs an autograph and interacts with a soldier Friday. McCain and five other members of Congress were at Bagram to assess the conditions for service members in Afghanistan.

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Thai Army paves way for multi-national runway

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Wicke
455th EOG Public Affairs

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Members from the Thai Army, who are now preparing to re-deploy back to Thailand in September, continue to provide their service to the runway under construction here.

Although service members from five countries are working together in the blowing dust of Afghanistan to rebuild Bagram’s runway, the Thai Army plays the lead role in producing a quality product, said Tech. Sgt. Darren Sexton, 455th Civil Engineer Squadron airfield construction manager.

“The Thais are high speed and low drag,” said Sexton, who has been toil-

ing elbow to elbow with the Thai army on this construction project.

“I’ve worked with a lot of different countries, but the Thais show more ingenuity than any of them I’ve seen. They are like a well-oiled machine. If they don’t have the tools for the job,

See **RUNWAY**, Page 3

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



U.S. soldiers inspect damage at the site of this week's bombing at U.N. headquarters in Baghdad.

FBI quizzes U.N. Iraqis; bombing possible inside job

BAGHDAD, Iraq — With the help of the FBI, authorities are pursuing a theory that this week's deadly blast at U.N. headquarters in Baghdad may have been an inside job, a top U.S. security official said Friday.

Investigators have started questioning Iraqis who worked at the converted Canal Hotel that is used as U.N. headquarters, according to Bernard Kerik, a former New York police commissioner who is a senior adviser to the Iraqi Interior Ministry.

"There are indeed concerns about some of the people who worked at the Canal Hotel" and their connections with Iraqi intelligence services during Saddam Hussein's regime, Kerik said.

Under Saddam's rule, it was not uncommon for Iraqis who worked with foreigners to be associated with his intelligence services.

Kerik said he was uncertain whether Sergio Vieira de Mello, the U.N. envoy killed in the attack, was the target of the blast. But he said that the bombing appeared to be timed and planned in such a way that Vieira de Mello could have been targeted.

The flatbed truck packed with explosives that rocked the building and killed at least 22 people was positioned near the envoy's office. U.S. Rep. Harold Ford, who was part of a congressional delegation visiting Iraq at the time of the attack, said it was premature to become suspicious about Iraqi involvement.

"We need to be careful before we jump to these conclusions," the Tennessee Democrat said. "... We have problems even in our own intelligence community here in America, with

people sometimes jumping ship and betraying our confidence.



Palestinian activists carry the bodies of Abu Shanab and his bodyguards during their funeral processions Friday in Gaza City.

Palestinian leader urges bigger U.S. role as peace disintegrates

GAZA CITY, Gaza — Thousands of Palestinians packed the streets of Gaza City on Friday to mourn the death of top Hamas leader Ismail Abu Shanab and denounce Israel for killing him.

Many of the Palestinians fired gunshots into the air, and chanted angry messages against Israel, which remains on high alert, fearing a retaliatory attack for Abu Shanab's death. *CNN* correspondent Michael Homes estimated the crowd at around 50,000 people.

Speakers used public address systems to urge the Palestinian Authority to break off talks with Israel. Crowds chanted "The road map is dead," "It is time for martyrdom," and "It is time for revenge."

The so-called road map to peace is a plan backed by the Mideast Quartet, made up of the United States, the United Nations, Russia and the European Union. It is aimed at resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and establishing a Palestinian state by 2005.

Abu Shanab was considered by many to be a moderate member of Hamas' political wing and was an architect of the Palestinian cease-fire, in effect before the most recent violence. The Israeli military, however, said he had been involved in recent attacks against Israeli civilians.

He was buried Friday. He had been one of the founders of the fundamentalist Islamic organization.

Almost immediately after the Hamas leader and two of his bodyguards were killed on Thursday, Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades — the militant offshoot of Arafat's Fatah movement — said they would no longer abide by their self-declared cease-fire.



Moore, left, looks at the Ten Commandments monument on Friday.

Judge suspended over Ten Commandments Friday

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore was suspended Friday pending the outcome of an ethics complaint for defying a federal court order to move a Ten Commandments monument from the rotunda of the Alabama Supreme Court building.

The plaintiffs who sought the monument's removal — Stephen Glassroth and Melinda Maddox — filed the complaint with the state judicial board of inquiry, arguing that Moore is guilty of judicial misconduct for failing to carry out a court order.

The complaint charges that Moore, a Republican, failed "to respect and comply with the law" and "willfully failed to comply with an existing and binding court order directed at him."

It also said the chief justice failed "to uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary," "failed to observe high standards of conduct" and "failed to avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in his activities."

The case has been referred to an Alabama judicial court, which will hold a trial-like proceeding where evidence of alleged wrongdoing will be presented and Moore will have a chance to defend his actions. Should Moore be found guilty, the court has the power to punish him — and even remove him from the bench.

CONGRESS, from Page 1

However, he added, the battle in Afghanistan is far from over.

"We need to assess what we need so we can go back and inform our colleagues and get the necessary funding and equipment," McCain told service members from Arizona.

Not only were the senators here for a first-hand look at what was needed at Bagram, but they also wanted to make sure the soldiers' were safe as well.

"People in the U.S. are very worried for the safety of our troops," said Hutchinson. "A lot of us in Congress are very intent on making sure we're doing everything possible to protect our troops in the field."

Another key issue they said was support.

"It's important for us to bring the message from the U.S. to

our troops that there is complete support," said Kolbe. "We really appreciate the job they're doing over here."

Marine Lance Cpl. Justin Futrell of VMA 513th, said meeting the senators and talking to them was a once in a lifetime chance.

"It's not something you get to do all the time," he said adding it was a huge morale boost for the service members.

"The message is we're not forgotten out here," he continued. "It's always good to know someone is thinking of you back home."

The senators agreed that more trips to the frontlines were needed to show soldiers they are not forgotten.

"It's important for every member of Congress to come out to a place like this and see what our forces are doing," said Kolbe. "You can't go home except swelled with pride for the tremendous job our men and women are doing here."

RUNWAY, from Page 1

they'll find a way to get it done," Sexton added.

The Thai leadership claim no secret to their quality craftsmanship, but rather, they credit their success from a desire to fight with the coalition against terrorism.

"In Thailand, it is an honor to the whole family for one member to deploy here," said Thai Army Capt. Winai Boonwijit, 975th Thai/Afghanistan Company Task Force operations officer. "Many people from Thailand wanted to come support this operation. Very few out of the whole were chosen by our battalion commander."

Not only do the Thais seem to be gifted in their work, but their propriety is also commended.

"The people here from Thailand have represented their country superbly," said Col. Bill Busby, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group commander.

"They are very gracious people who are eager to serve and modest about their success. Their enthusiasm and excellence in their work is an example to all of us."

Because this foreign workhorse deployed here March 15, their time is about



A member of the Thailand Army smooths out wet concrete being layed for the construction of the new runway here. The U.S. Air Force is working with the Thai army and the U.S. Army on this construction process.

to expire.

"We are returning to Thailand Sept. 29," said Boonwijit. "But we are very happy to have the opportunity to work with the coalition force."

"The Thais and their quality work will be sorely missed here," said Busby.

"Not only have they improved our cause against ...on worldwide terrorism, but their allure has softened the brunt of this combative atmosphere."

Nonetheless, the Thais aren't leaving the coalition empty handed.

"Once they leave, the Air Force and the Army will continue to construct this runway using the same techniques the Thais were using," said Sexton.

"Since we've been working together, we have learned from each other. I think both sides will walk away with a better understanding of this work."

Baghglan hosts ANA awareness symposium

BAGHLAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Recently, senior representatives of the Interim Transitional Government of Afghanistan, Kabul-based diplomats, and military leaders from the Coalition traveled to Baghlan Province to discuss the Afghan National Army (ANA) with local officials and elders.

Baghlan Governor, Engineer Mohammad Omar, welcomed the delegation upon its arrival, as more than 200 people attended the community meeting.

During the event, several speeches were made including speeches by the Ministers of Transportation and Justice. Both men gave talks in favor of disarmament and ANA expansion in order to bring peace and security to the people of Afghanistan.

Lt. Gen. Baryalai, Deputy Minister of Defense, received applause from the audience after explaining the concept of the newly established Afghan National Army (ANA).

During his talk pamphlets describing the benefits of joining the

ANA in Dari and Pashto were handed out to the crowd.

The Japanese Ambassador and the German Deputy Chief of Mission were among the guest invited to the event. Both dignitaries encouraged the Afghan people to support the ANA and Afghan National Police.

A U.S. coalition military leader emphasized the importance of a national force, citing open recruiting and Ministry of Defense reform in Afghanistan.

Omar, in his speech, declared the absolute commitment of the Baghlan people to the process of disarmament and the building of the ANA.

The Minister of Transportation addressed the attendees saying, “Now it is time for supporting a national army, building up the country, returning weapons back to the state, and spreading peace and stability to the citizens of Afghanistan.”

(Information from CJTF-180 Press Release)

Troops doing ‘magnificent job’ in Iraq says top leaders

Story by K.L. Vantran
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Americans can be proud of the work U.S. soldiers are doing in Iraq, said 5th Corps Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth O. Preston during a video teleconference from Baghdad today.

“The soldiers are really doing a magnificent job,” he added. “All of you should be very proud of what soldiers here are doing in support of the people of Iraq.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bush, 1st Armored Division and Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Fuss, agreed.

“They’re doing very well,” said Fuss, who also serves as command sergeant major for Task Force Iron Horse, which has responsibility for the northeast portion of Iraq. “They’re disciplined. They’re trained. They are taking the fight to the enemy every day and we’re winning.”

This is in spite of working in difficult conditions such as the “tough, rugged” terrain and temperatures that have averaged 123 degrees, said Preston. “Even in full uniform out on the ground, their spirits are high,” he added. “Soldiers are proud

of the mission they are doing.

“Terrorist attacks can occur anywhere in the world,” Preston continued.

“It’s one of those things we learn from. Soldiers understand the threat and the environment they work in. They walk with death out on patrols. There’s no substitute for the level of experience a soldier gains.”

The adaptability of these young soldiers is great, said Bush, who also serves as command sergeant major for Task Force Baghdad.

Senior leaders in Iraq remain focused on the mission and taking care of the soldiers, noted Preston.

“The No. 1 way to take care of (soldiers) is to ensure they are trained,” he added.

Quality of life issues, to include housing and food, are also a top concern of the command sergeants major.

In an effort to improve troop billets, Preston said they’ve been working with local contractors to restore infrastructure and to put windows and air conditioning back in buildings.

There’s even a push to get air conditioners out to the soldiers who live in tents

at remote sites.

Fuss said they’ve started purchasing 20-foot vans that have heat and air conditioning. Each would house four soldiers.

Food preparation is also being contracted out.

The intent, said Preston, is to have several large dining facilities in established areas. These facilities would in turn get “quality meals” out to the soldiers in remote sites.

One priority is obtaining power generators, said Bush.

“You can’t rely on commercial power,” said Fuss. Power may be on for three hours and then none the rest of the day or it may be just the opposite, he added.

“There are a number of initiatives,” Preston added. “I think if you asked the soldiers, they’d say there have been many improvements in the last 30 days.

As the theater matures, you get logistics support structures set and quality of life improves substantially.”

Every day soldiers look at what their leaders are doing to make their quality of life better, said Fuss. “And we’re working on it every day.”

FREEDOM'S VOICES

Things learned about Afghanistan

Editorial: By Spc. Wes Landrum
Coalition Joint Task Force-180

August 25 marks the halfway point of my six-month deployment to lovely Afghanistan. You wouldn't think that by talking to me about three months, it would seem like an eternity.

In reality, it feels like I have been here a year. I know what you're saying – three months? That's just 90 days. It can't possibly compare to the people who are in the reserves and National Guard. They serve nine-month tours during deployments. Many of my friends are reservists and National Guardsmen and I will say that I am proud to stand beside them here at Bagram. The reason I am writing this editorial is because I have learned a number of things since I got here in May. Here's just a few:

Number one, it is just as hot here in the summer months as it is back in the United States. In June and July, we had 100-degree temperatures almost daily. Depending on where you were at, you saw temps as high as 110 to 120, maybe 130. Being from the south, I am used to hot temps. However, nothing could prepare me for the arid temperatures of Afghanistan. Drinking water is an understatement here. You have to drink water here to keep going or you will find yourself in a hospital bed with IV's hooked up to you.

Number two, the people of Afghanistan work just as hard as we do. Some residents of the village located outside the base can be seen helping out in every capacity. They construct

buildings, work in the dining facilities, and clean the showers and latrines. Work that would be considered a hardship to us is satisfying work for them. I find it remarkable how they do these jobs and like it. I have never seen them complain one bit about the tasks they are given. Maybe the people of the U.S. should follow their lead.

Number three and probably the most important, I now realize why we are over here. Before I was deployed over here, the only time Afghanistan was mentioned was in school and movies. I never thought I would come over here so why would I be worried about the people of Afghanistan. Then I got over here and saw the destruction the Taliban did. Being at Bagram has given me a new perspective on things.

Riding in a Humvee and seeing the children on the side of the roads giving you the thumbs up and saying good job makes me glad I'm over here. I went out and covered a humanitarian mission a couple of days ago. I had an elderly man come up to me and start talking to me. I couldn't understand what he was saying so I called for the interpreter to come and translate what he was saying. The man was saying "Thank You".

U.S. and coalition forces have been here for almost two years. People wonder why we are over here fighting. All I have to say about that is for those who criticize our mission here to come over here, see what these people go through everyday, and draw your own conclusions.

STREET TALK

What do you think is the most important contribution women have made to the military?



"They've always been supporters, starting with the nurses corps, and now they're moving to the forefront."

1st Lt. Scott Sparks
CJTF-180 CJ-6

"We've shown that we can contribute on an equal basis judged by our performance."

Master Sgt. Tish Cavaleri
CJTF-180 CJ-5



"They've help broadened the box. The military is always saying think outside the box, they helped do that"

Sr. Airman Robert Cavaos
81st Fighter Squadron

"Their presence. By integrating into a normally male bastion, it has allowed us to prove our capabilities."

Lt. Col. Elizabeth Damonte
CJCMOTF



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Afghanistan Hot Topics

(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)



Karzai inaugurates Kabul-Kandahar road project

KABUL, Afghanistan (*Pak Tribune*) – Afghan President Hamid Karzai Thursday inaugurated expansion and reconstruction of Kabul-Kandahar road project.

According to VOA, the project would play an important role in boosting the economy of the country.

It is pertinent to mention that US, Japan and Saudi Arabia are donor countries in this project.

Ready Supply of Recruits for Afghan Taliban

Story by Mike Collett-White

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (*Reuters*) – There seems to be no shortage of young recruits willing to take up arms and join the Taliban in Afghanistan.

At an imposing jail on the outskirts of the southern city of Kandahar, birthplace of the ousted Islamic militia, prison officials say there are 50 to 60 “political inmates,” a term usually used to describe Taliban guerrillas.

Reuters met a small number late on Wednesday, all young men, or teenagers who, whether for faith, money or out of pure ignorance recently joined the “jihad,” or holy war, declared by the Taliban against U.S.-led foreign troops, aid workers and their “helpers.”

All said they came from neighboring Pakistan. They were selected by an Afghan intelligence official so it was unclear how representative they were of the prisoners; Kabul pins the blame for rising Taliban violence largely on Pakistan.

“I am a Talib,” said Rahmatullah, an 18-year-old from the central Afghan province of Uruzgan. “I was studying in a madrassah in Chaman and was told by the Taliban to join them and join the jihad,” he added, referring to a Muslim religious school.

Two months ago in Chaman, a border town in Pakistan, Rahmatullah met Mullah Mateen who went with him to the Pakistani city of Quetta where he joined 10 more fighters.

They went by taxi to the Maruf district of Kandahar province and a few nights later a group

of 20 launched an unsuccessful attack on an official’s house during which Rahmatullah, who wears a blue turban and a wispy black beard, was caught.

“I don’t care much for the Taliban’s opinion. I was just given money and fought for money,” he said unapologetically. He was paid \$55 for his troubles.

The Taliban, and elements of the al Qaeda terror network it once sheltered, have been labeled the chief culprits for a wave of violence that has claimed at least 90 lives in the last two weeks, shaking confidence in Afghanistan’s stability.

While many deaths in recent fighting have also been linked to factional clashes and turf battles, there is little doubt the religious militia defeated by U.S. and Afghan forces late in 2001 is stepping up its attacks.

The Taliban drew its strength in the 1990s from “talibs,” or Islamic students, mostly in Pakistani madrassahs. Despite promises by Islamabad to reform them, they are widely seen as a continuing source of militant Islamic teaching.

Mohammad Ramazan, a nervous-looking 20-year-old, was told to go and fight for the Taliban in Afghanistan by Mullah Mohammad Issah, a cleric in a Quetta madrassah.

“Mullah Issah was teaching at the madrassah. He taught that the Americans are in Afghanistan and you have to go and join the Taliban and fight the jihad,” he said.

Wearing a skullcap and “shawal kameez” shirt, Ramazan recounted how he had also gone to Maruf, but decided to run away when he realized he had made a “big mistake.”

He said he heard Taliban guerrillas discussing plans for attacks on U.S. forces and Afghan government soldiers. An intelligence official overseeing the interviews said Ramazan was involved in fighting but did not have a gun when caught.

“I really miss my family, my wife and my mother. They come into my dreams every night,” said Ramazan, before being led off back to his cell.

Both inmates said they had met Pakistanis among the Taliban fighters, but no Arabs. An undisclosed number of more senior members of the militia are in U.S. custody at Kandahar air

base or in Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, prison officials said.

Mullah Sabir, alias Momin, deputy for senior Taliban commander Mullah Abdur Rahim, told *Reuters* members of the al Qaeda network were not operating in Afghanistan.

“The jihad will continue against coalition, and especially U.S. and British, forces and Afghan forces, because this is our religious duty,” he told *Reuters* from an undisclosed location via satellite telephone.

He added that Afghans working for foreign organizations were legitimate targets, because they were employed to gather intelligence about the Taliban.

US and Afghan troops torch heroin factories in Afghanistan

(*Agence France-Presse*) – The United States and the Afghan forces destroyed three heroin factories in the eastern Afghanistan this week, the *Afghan Islamic Press (AIP)* reported on Friday.

The factories were discovered in Nangarhar province, one of the prime regions for opium poppy cultivation, and were torched on Thursday, the private Pakistan-based newsagency said.

AIP said that the factories were operating in Behar village in Nangarhar’s Khogiani district, some 30 kilometres (18 miles) southwest of the main eastern city Jalalabad.

“The forces used bombs in the demolition of factories,” a resident who witnessed the torching told *AIP*.

The owners of the factories fled and no arrests were made, *AIP* said.

Since US-led forces ousted the Taliban regime in December 2001, Afghanistan has regained its place as the world’s biggest producer of opium, the ingredient for manufacturing heroin.

Opium production was virtually eradicated under the Taliban’s 1996 to 2001 regime, but a power vacuum in the provinces has seen farmers return to harvesting poppy, which fetches 38 times the price of wheat.

Last year Afghanistan produced three-quarters of the world’s opium, UN figures show.

Entertainment

August 23, 2003

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan



Photo by David Gatchell, ARCENT, Qatar PAO

A couple of U.S. troops enjoy a day of jet-skiing on one of the many MWR sanctioned trips offered during rest and relaxation in Qatar for troops serving in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Relaxing in Qatar military style

Photo page by Sgt. Stephanie Hall

4th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMPAS SAYLIYAH, Qatar – U.S. service members engaged in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom are given the opportunity to take four days away from the harsh realities of war, combat and separation from loved ones with a program set up by the U.S. Army Forces Central Command and Morale, Welfare and Recreation at Camp As Sayliyah in Qatar.

This program began July 18, and on a daily basis, 150 soldiers arrive from their respective task force areas of operation to begin their four-day pass. About 120 troops come from Iraq and the other 30 come from Afghanistan.

The MWR sanctioned trips off post include day trips to a five-story European-style mall, several different hotels with the chance to relax on the beaches of the Persian Gulf, dine at five-star restaurants, and the chance to experience the life in Doha, the capital city of Qatar.

For those who want to stay on base, the program also offers a myriad of opportunities for self-indulgence like being pampered at the base's day spa with a massage, manicure and pedicure.

Even though there is a dining facility on base, troops who get a little weary of military chow can choose to dine at Burger King, Subway, or have pizza and gourmet-style coffee and pastries offered at the camp.

For more information, contact your local personnel office.



Photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hall

Soldiers from CJTF-180 pamper themselves at the day spa on Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar during thier rest and relaxation getaway.



Photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hall

Right - Sgt. Lehua G. Pittman, HHC, 10th Mt. Div., haggles her way to owning a gold necklace at one of the malls troops can visit while on rest and relaxation.

Music Notes (Compiled from MTV.com)



**R. Kelly,
Missy Elliott
working on
Ruben Studdard's
Soulful debut**

MTV – “American Idol” winner Ruben Studdard is working with two American icons on his debut album.



Ruben Studdard

who “loves Ruben,” according to her spokesperson, is working on material for the project as well.

The album, titled *Soulful*, has been pushed back from October to a November 11 release.

“I’ve been touring nonstop and haven’t had the chance to make my album the way I want to,” Studdard said in a statement. “In order to work with the best of the best ... I need time to vibe with them so that I can put out the best album possible.”

Studdard has already recorded a collaboration with Fat Joe, and has been in studios with producers Harold Lilly (Monica, Deborah Cox) and Static (Jay-Z).

Work on the project is expected to increase heavily after August 31, the last date of the American Idols Live Tour.

Studdard is tangled up in a lawsuit surrounding the 205 jerseys he wore on “American Idol”, but it is not expected to interfere with the release. His lawyer did not return calls on Thursday (August 21).

Britney, Beyonce, Metallica, Missy, Jay-Z added To VMA lineup

MTV – The 2003 MTV Video Music Awards added a little jiggle and a lot of stomp as Beyoncé and Metallica have been added to the roster of performers for this year’s ceremony.

Jay-Z, Britney Spears, Sean Paul, Mya, Missy Elliott, Serena Williams, Method Man, Iggy Pop and cast members from “Queer Eye

R&B star R. Kelly wrote and will produce an inspirational song called “Send Me an Angel” for the Birmingham, Alabama, crooner, and Missy Elliott,

for the Straight Guy” and Comedy Central’s “Crank Yankers” have also been lined up to appear on the show, set to air live on August 28 from New York’s Radio City Music Hall.



Britney Spears

roster that also includes 50 Cent, Good Charlotte, Coldplay and Christina Aguilera .

Meanwhile, Jay, Britney and the rest of the latest wave of artists confirmed to appear will share the stage with P. Diddy, Ashanti, Kelly Clarkson, Tony Hawk, Hilary Duff, Ludacris, Bam Margera, Redman, Evanescence, David Spade, Snoop Dogg, NBA rookie sensation LeBron James and Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen.

Beyoncé looks to log a whole lot of time on the VMA stage. In addition to performing, she heads into the ceremony with five nominations: Best Female Video, Best R&B Video, Best Choreography in a Video and Viewer’s Choice for her “Crazy in Love” clip, and Best Hip-Hop Video for her work in Jay-Z’s “’03 Bonnie & Clyde” video.

Fellow performers Metallica will also bring a VMA nod with them to the stage. The band’s “St. Anger” clip is nominated for Best Rock Video.

The 2003 VMAs, hosted by Chris Rock, will be broadcast live on MTV at 8 p.m. ET.

Great White, Station Owners Fined By Feds For Deadly Fire

MTV – A federal agency has fined Great White and the owners of the Station for the fire that burned down the Rhode Island club in February.

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration penalized Derco LLC, the company that owned the

venue, \$82,200 for alleged violations of federal workplace safety laws. Of that sum, \$70,000 was for failing to take care of a prior violation. Three months before the inferno, a West Warwick fire inspector cited the club for having an exit door near the nightclub stage that opened inward instead of outward.

The company was also fined for the highly flammable foam, which was being used for soundproofing, on the club walls and around the rear-exit door near the stage.



Great White's Jack Russell

So far, Derco, LLC, which was formed by club owners Jeffrey and Michael Derderian, has been hit with

almost \$1.15 million in federal and state fines. In April, the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training penalized them \$1.06 million for not providing their employees with mandatory workers’ compensation insurance. Attorneys for the Derderians did not return calls.

OSHA also fined the Great White corporation, Jack Russell Tour Inc., \$7,000 for jeopardizing the safety of employees of the Station by shooting off pyrotechnics in the club. The showers of sparks ignited the soundproofing foam, and the fire quickly spread, burning the building down in minutes.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building:
“A Fistful of Dollars.” A wandering gunfighter plays two rival families against each other in a town torn apart by greed, pride, and revenge.

Tomorrow’s movie will be
“Braveheart.”



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



Barry Bonds led a sweep of Atlanta with two walk-off homers.

Déjà vu Bonds leaves park in 10th

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds leaves the ballpark as quickly as possible these days — not because he doesn't love the game, but because he has somewhere better to be.

And when the Atlanta Braves dared to throw a hittable pitch to him in the 10th inning Thursday night, Bonds sent everybody home for the second time in three dramatic nights.

Bonds hit his 652nd career homer on the first pitch he saw from Trey Hodges, giving the San Francisco Giants a 4-3 victory Thursday night and a three-game sweep of baseball's best team.

With his second extra-inning homer in three days, Bonds moved within eight homers of his godfather, Willie Mays, for third place on the career list. He's climbing the chart with a heavy heart while spending most of his free time with his cancer-stricken father, Bobby.

"I was just trying to hit the ball, but I've got to go somewhere now," Bonds said as he left the clubhouse.

After Atlanta tied it with a stirring three-run rally in the ninth, Bonds hit his major league-leading 39th homer when Hodges (3-2) left a sinker within Bonds' reach despite his manager's fervent instructions to the contrary.

The drive — Bonds' 100th career homer at Pacific Bell Park — landed in the center-field stands, and his teammates mobbed Bonds

at home plate, celebrating another victory in a thrilling series between the NL's top two teams.

"Maybe there might be a league on another planet where he's just another guy," Giants manager Felipe Alou said. "It didn't look too good for a while, but our big left fielder did it again."

Thanks to Bonds' heroics, the Giants got their third straight one-run victory. Bonds beat the Braves 5-4 Tuesday night with a similar shot, and he was part of the ninth-inning rally that ended with Edgardo Alfonzo's game-winning single Wednesday night.

Staley to end hold out; expected to join Eagles over the weekend

ESPN — Philadelphia Eagles running back Duce Staley apparently has had enough ... of holding out.

Staley is expected to end his holdout and report to the team this weekend, according to the *Trenton Times*.



Duce Staley

Asked if he expected to see Staley report this weekend, Eagles head coach Andy Reid responded with a "no comment" but had a smile on his face, the paper reported.

Staley currently owes \$130,000 in fines for his holdout — which is nearing the completion of its fourth week — but the Eagles may opt to dismiss those fines.

If Staley does report this weekend, he will have one preseason game left before the regular season starts against defending Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay on Monday, Sept. 8.

Staley has been working out at home during his holdout. In the final year of his contract that will pay him \$2.2 million this season, Staley wants a long-term deal from the Eagles.

Staley, in the final year of his contract, will earn \$2.2 million this season. He had another year at \$2.8 million on his contract, but voided it when he gained over 1,000 yards rushing last season.

The Chicago Bears are said to have interest in acquiring Staley, but the *Times* reports that the Eagles have not listened to any trade offers.

Clarett facing multi-game suspension

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State star running back Maurice Clarett could be suspended for several games but will be allowed to resume practicing with the national champion Buckeyes, the university said Friday.

The university received a list of allegations from the NCAA against Clarett on Thursday and discussed them with the sophomore on Friday, athletic director Andy Geiger said in a statement.

SPORTS, from Page B3

The NCAA and university had been investigating allegations about Clarett's academic performance and his acknowledged overstatement of the value of items stolen from a vehicle he was borrowing.

Clarett remains ineligible for games for now but



Clarett faces a multi-games suspension, but is expected to rejoin practice by Sunday.

could rejoin practices as early as Sunday, Geiger said.

"Our next step is to make a recommendation to the NCAA concerning the length of Maurice's suspension," he said. "Then, we wait for their reply."

"We have no way of

knowing how long this process will take, but it will be a multiple-game suspension."

Clarett remains on scholarship. Classes resume Sept. 24.

Telephone messages were left seeking comment Friday at the Youngstown home of Clarett's mother, Michelle; with his Columbus attorney, Scott Schiff; and with NCAA officials.

The school began an investigation after a *New York Times* article in which a former teaching assistant accused Clarett of receiving preferential treatment in class. Norma C. McGill said Clarett walked out of a midterm exam last fall but ended up passing the class after professor Paulette Pierce gave him an oral exam.

That prompted Ohio State to form a 10-person committee to look into charges of academic fraud involving several athletes.

Meanwhile, the NCAA was investigating Clarett's claim that more than \$10,000 in clothing, CDs, cash and stereo equipment was stolen in April from a 2001 Chevrolet Monte Carlo he was borrowing from a local dealership.

Clarett's attorney, Scott Schiff, acknowledged many of the items belonged to the dealer, not Clarett, and that Clarett exaggerated their value. In a statement late last month, Clarett apologized to his teammates and Ohio State for "any embarrassment this incident may have caused."

Solution from Friday's British Crossword in the *Freedom Watch*

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

A	L	T	E	R		S	P	O	T		A	P	O	D
H	E	I	D	I		T	A	K	E		C	H	A	R
A	S	P	I	C		I	R	A	N		C	O	T	E
					C	H	E	R	R	Y	S	T	O	N
B	O	A	T	E	L					S	E	R	M	O
A	P	R	S			I	R	E		R	A	P		
T	E	M				H	O	S	S		C	L	O	S
I	R	O	N	O	U	T	H	E	K	I	N	K	S	
K	A	R	E	N		H	O	U	R			E	A	T
					A	L	P		P	E	I		P	A
A	R	A	P	A	H	O				S	C	A	L	E
P	A	R	T	Y	A	N	I	M	A	L	S			
T	I	K	I			S	I	N	E		A	T	O	L
E	N	I	D			E	C	O	N		S	E	P	I
R	Y	N	E			R	E	N	D		P	L	A	N



By Mark Baker

Pvt. Murphy's Law

Kandahar chapel hours

Sunday

- 0500Z — Roman Catholic mass
- 0630Z — Protestant worship
- 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- 1430Z — Gospel service

Monday

- 1130Z — Rosary and prayers
- 1430Z — Gospel choir practice

Tuesday

- 1130Z — Orthodox/Catholic Bible study
- 1430Z — Protestant Bible study

Wednesday

- 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- 1430Z — Protestant mid-week service

Thursday

- 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

- 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- 1130Z — Orthodox Christian hymn service
- 1430Z — Jewish prayer

Saturday

- 0530Z — Seventh-Day Adventist worship
- 1130Z — Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy
- 1430Z — Gospel Choir practice

Bagram chapel hours

Sunday

- 0500Z — Catholic mass
- 0630Z — Protestant worship
- 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- 1400Z — Gospel service

Monday

- 0700Z — Catholic mass

Tuesday

- 0700Z — Catholic mass
- 1430Z — Protestant Bible study

Wednesday

- 0700Z — Catholic mass
- 1430Z — Protestant mid-week service

Thursday

- 0700Z — Catholic mass
- 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

- 0700Z — Catholic mass
- 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- 1130Z — Orthodox Christian hymn service
- 1430Z — Jewish prayer

Saturday

- 0530Z — Seventh-Day Adventist worship
- 1130Z — Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy
- 1430Z — Gospel Choir practice
- 1515Z — Catholic mass

K2 chapel hours

Sunday

- 0300Z- Liturgical Service
- 0400,0730,1130Z-General Protestant Service
- 0530Z-Roman Catholic Mass
- 1230Z-Latter Day Saints

Monday

- 0230Z-Devotions and Prayer
- 1230Z-Catholic Mass

Tuesday

- 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- 1400Z-Biblestudy

Wednesday

- 0230Z-Devotions and Prayer
- 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- 1400Z-Midweek Praise Service

Thursday

- 1230Z-Catholic Mass

Friday

- 1400Z-Jewish Service
- 0230Z-Devotions and Prayer
- 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- 1400Z-Biblestudy

Saturday

- 0400Z-Jewish Service
- 1230Z-Catholic Mass

CJCMOTF
chapel
hours

Sunday
□ 1100Z — Christian service
□ 1430Z — U.S. Embassy service
□ 1900Z — Christian service
Wednesday
□ 1900Z — Bible study
2nd & 4th Thursdays
□ 1900Z — Roman Catholic mass



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Today



Hi — 93F
Lo — 68F



Hi — 96F
Lo — 63F



Hi — 93F
Lo — 59F



Hi — 102F
Lo — 73F

Sunday



Hi — 91F
Lo — 72F



Hi — 99F
Lo — 59F



Hi — 93F
Lo — 61F



Hi — 102F
Lo — 73F

Monday



Hi — 91F
Lo — 72F



Hi — 97F
Lo — 58F



Hi — 91F
Lo — 61F



Hi — 104F
Lo — 73F

KMTC chapel hours

Sunday

- 0430Z — Protestant Service
- 0530Z — Roman Catholic Mass/Eucharist
- 0630Z — Latter Day Saints
- 1630Z — Protestant Service

Wednesday

- 1430Z — Bible Study

Friday

- 1530Z — Thank God It's Friday fellowship and singing

All events are held in FOB195 Chapel/Conference Room area.